

## Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /079 W

----- 002864

O R 230644Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7460

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCPACFLT MAKALPA HI

COMSEVENTH FLT

CTF SEVEN TWO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14751

E.O. 11652: DGS

TAGS: PINS FT

SUBJ: INCIDENT IN DJIBOUTI

REF: CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI 190601Z DEC 75 (NOTAL)

1. A EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE WAS EYEWITNESS TO INCIDENT IN DJIBOUTI DEC 18. DIPLOMAT OBSERVED CHAUFFER OF TFAI PRESIDENT ALI AREF BANTERING WITH A SMALL GROUP NEAR DJIBOUTI MAIN MOSQUE. GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 25 KEPT SHOUTING, "RESIGN, RESIGN," TO CHAUFFEUR IN OBVIOUS CALL FOR THE CHAUFFEUR'S CHIEF, ALI AREF, TO RESIGN HIS PRESIDENCY. DRIVER, IN A PLAYFUL MANNER, TRIED TO FRIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE CROWD BY BACKING AND STARTING ABRUPTLY. SEVERALLOCAL POLICE ARRIVE TO DEISPERSE THE  
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CROWD, WHICH HAD GROWN TO 40 OR 50. THE POLICE ATTEMPTED

TO DETAIN SOME OF THE JEEERERS AND PUT TWO INDIVICUALS  
IN THE POLICE VAN.

2. THE CHAUFFERU THEN RETURNED TO THE SCENE WITH MORE  
POLICE AND POINTED TO A MEMBER OF THE CROWD, SAYING,  
"THIS IS THE RINGLEADER." AS THE "RINGLEADER" WAS  
BEING ARRESTED, THE TWO OTHER ARRESTEES ESCAPED. FOUR  
MORE NATIVE POLICE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE. ALTHOUGH THE  
INCIDENT APPEARED TO BE OVER, AND THE CROWD WAS DIS-  
PERSING, ONE OF THESE LATTER POLICE LOST CONTROL OF HIM-  
SELF AND FIRED HIS SUBMACHINE GUN INTO THE CROWD. DIPLO-  
MAT BELIVES SHOTS KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED THREE. FRENCH  
POLICE THEN ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO BRING THE SITUATION  
UNDER CONTROL. LATER ON DEC. 18, FRENCH HIGH COMMISSIONER  
ASSUMED COMMAND OF LOCAL POLICE/GENDARMERIE. WE UNDERSTAND  
OFFENDING POLICEMAN WAS ARRESTED AND IS AWAITING TRIAL.

3. DIPLOMAT WAS THE ONLY EUROPEAN EYEWITNESS TO THE  
INCIDENT AND WAS GENTLY BUT EXTENSIVELY INTERROGATED  
BY FRENCH AUTHORITES. HE REPORTED THAT THAT FRENCH  
APPEARED TO TAKE THE MATTER CALMLY. HE ADDED, HOWEVER,  
THAT HE WAS NOT SO SANGUINE AND THAT MOST NON-FRENCH  
INTERLOCUATORS VIEWIED THE INCIDENT AS A POTENTIALLY  
INFLAMATORY ONE WHICH COULD IGNITE ANTI-ALI AREF AND /OR  
ANTI-FRENCH DISTURBANCES IN THE FUTURE.

FOR CINCPACFLT MAKALPA HI:

4. GIVEN RAPID FRENCH RESPONSE TO INCIDENT AND ARREST OF  
POLICEMAN, EMBASSY BELIEVES DECEMBER 26-28 VISIT IS  
STILL FEASIBLE. ALL PERSONNEL GOING ASHORE, HOWEVER,  
SHOULD BE FULLY BRIEFED ON THE POTENTIAL SECUIRITY  
PROBLEM IN DJIBOUTI.  
HUMMEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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